



Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan Golden West College

Developed by:

Stephanie Smallshaw, Director of Student Life & Leadership Development

ssmallshaw@ccd.edu

Aileen Perez, Professional Expert – Civic Engagement

aperez352@ccd.edu

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Golden West College in California for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for Golden West College for the 2024 election are:

Build a team: Campus Life identified the Associated Students of Golden West College (ASGWC) and their Student Interest Committee. The primary role of the Student Interest Committee is to educate students on policy and legislation and to support legislative action through student advocacy efforts. Additionally, Campus Life has onboarded a Professional Expert to assist in Civic Engagement project coordination.

Register students to vote: Our action plan includes regular voter registration drives, celebrating National Voter Registration Day each year, and providing students with voter registration information and resources throughout the academic year.

Educate students on issues and candidates: Our action plan includes strong partnerships with faculty, staff, administration, students, and community organizations to increase candidacy and issues awareness.

Help students to volunteer: Our action plan includes college-sponsored student trips, such as trips to Washington D.C., to volunteer in civic engagement activities and to encourage students to volunteer in partisan and nonpartisan campaigns of their choice.

Build election excitement and visibility: Our action plan includes a *Pledge to Vote Campaign*, *Ballot Bowl Outreach*, as well as visible election publicity.

Get out the vote: Our action plan ensures that we encourage students to vote early or on election day. We will email our students and post on our various social media outlets as a reminder to vote on Election Day. We will also host an early county vote center and have a permanent ballot drop off box located near the entrance to campus.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

At Golden West College, our support is universal across administration, faculty, staff, and students. Specifically, President Meridith Randall, Vice President of Student Services Dr. Claudia Lee, and Dean of Students Dr. Carla Martinez have been supportive of this work. They worked with Campus Life to secure the logistics and board approval of the early Orange County Vote Center, attended campus lectures and events, sent emails in support of voter engagement, and encouraged campus-wide participation in civic engagement activities.

Campus Life also benefited from partnerships with our sister colleges, Orange Coast College and Coastline College, hosting district-wide Civic Engagement events such as National Voter Registration Day, faculty lectures, and educational forums in partnership with the Orange County Registrar of Voters. The three Coast colleges met once a month to coordinate districtwide Civic Engagement events and activities that expanded educational learning opportunities to all students across the district.

Commitment:

Golden West College does not have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

The Campus Life Department been in constant communication with outside nonpartisan partner organizations such as OC Registrar of Voters & League of Women Voters to get them on campus for holidays such as National Voter Registration Day National Voter Education Week, etc.

Landscape:

Golden West College is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2021. Our institution is designated as the following: Minority-Serving Institution, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Golden West College has 11,396 students.

Golden West College authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and received campus voting data for the 2022 election in fall 2023. However, our

NSLVE authorization expires in 2023 and our institution will need to reauthorize NSLVE to receive campus voting data for the 2024 election and beyond.

Our 2022 campus voting rate was 23.7%
Our 2022 campus voting registration rate was 65.1%

Our 2020 campus voting rate was 56.7%.
Our 2020 campus voter registration rate was 71.1%.

Golden West College has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals of recognition for past elections: 2020 Bronze.

Golden West College participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on campus: National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

ASGWC has been successful in including civic engagement efforts in the scope of duties of the Student Interest Committee since 2019. Nonetheless, campus-wide civic engagement efforts across Golden West College and the Coast Community College District can be strengthened by institutionalizing best practices and ensuring all students are participating in the democratic process. Our goals for Civic Engagement and Voter Empowerment leading into the 2024 Primary and General Elections are as follows:

- 1) Ensure that all eligible Golden West College students have the tools and resources they need to be active participants in the electoral process.**
 - a. We will incorporate voter registration and voter resources at more student events. In the upcoming year, we will collaborate more with Athletics and Student Clubs and Organizations.
 - b. Many of the questions students have about voting can be answered by visiting the Civic Engagement tile on the GWC Mobile App. Through clearer and more visible signage, use of student media outlets, campus emails, and a prominent highlight on the Golden West College homepage, we hope students come to learn about it and use it more widely.
 - c. The Golden West College academic calendar incorporates key electoral dates, including but not limited to, registration deadlines, election dates (including primaries), early voting timelines, and absentee ballot deadlines.
 - d. Our campus has collaborated with the Student Vote Project to assist students in the registration process and keep them up-to-date on relevant election information.
 - e. Golden West College will continue to publicize and host watch parties for political debates.
 - f. Nonpartisan candidate and issue guides are widely distributed and available for students.

- g. The Student Interest Committee will host educational forums on the issues in partnership with the Orange County League of Women Voters and the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office.
- h. Golden West College will continue to collaborate with the Orange County Registrar of Voters to host an Orange County Vote Center.

2) Create spaces for healthy, deliberative dialogues across campus, so that students understand how this type of discourse is integral to the democratic process and active citizenship.

- a. Strengthen the partnership between the Campus Life and GWC faculty to host more Civic Engagement events and yield higher attendance and participation.
- b. Continue to host open lectures and Town Halls to include faculty from a variety of disciplines to serve our diverse student body.
- c. Use social media to model the way on how to engage in purposeful digital discourse.
- d. Provide student leaders with training on how to facilitate deliberative dialogue online and on-campus

3) Increase voting registration from 30.6% in 2024 to 37% in 2026 to meet the median voting rate of all institutions.

Strategy:

Golden West College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

Key:

** Election Years

*** Presidential Elections Only

August

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
Welcome Week Activities	Each semester, Campus Life hosts Welcome Week during the first week of classes to welcome new and returning students to campus with social activities and campus traditions. These campus-wide events can be intentionally leveraged to help recruit students to serve on the ASGWC Student Interest Committee.

September

Email Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Voter Registration Day. ● The last day to register to vote online or to register to vote by mail or in person. ● The date when Orange County may begin to offer early voting. ● The primary and general election dates. ● “A voter may apply to vote by mail at any time until after the
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	<p>seventh day prior to an election”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A link to the Secretary of State’s Student Vote Project webpage.
Constitution Day	Campus Life hosts a voter registration drive on or before September 15.
National Voter Registration Day	A voter registration drive and opportunity to learn about the issues, measures/propositions, and candidates that will appear on the ballot.
Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.

October

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
**Voter Registration Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Voter Registration Day. ● The last day to register to vote online or to register to vote by mail or in person. ● The date when Orange County may begin to offer early voting. ● The primary and general election dates. ● “A voter may apply to vote by mail at any time until after the seventh day prior to an election” ● A link to the Secretary of State’s Student Vote Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secretary of State’s website for online voter registration. ○ Secretary of State’s web address for election information. ○ Secretary of State’s web address for the voter registration status tool and election information for Orange County. ● A disclaimer stating the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That civic and election information provided applies to Orange County. ○ That election information varies by county. ○ That recipients of the email are encouraged to check the internet website containing the Secretary of State’s voter registration status tool or a similar website to find election information for the county where the recipient’s voter registration is active.
**PROPtober	<p>A series of events encouraging students to think and vote holistically, specifically focusing on the California propositions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addresses voter suppression and voter fraud. ● Includes a “PROPtober Guidebook” as a digital resource for students to learn about the propositions. ● Host a panel discussion with GWC professors where they discuss the propositions from the perspective of their field of study. ● Host a film or documentary screening addressing voting rights.
California	GWC students will attend the CCCSAA conference and can attend advocacy training workshops to prepare them to engage in civic

Community Colleges Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA) Student Leadership Conference	engagement related activities.
**Social Media	Post on social media reminders to students, at least one day before Voter Registration closes.

November

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
**Social Media	Post social media reminders for students, at least one day before Election Day.

December

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
GWC Student Town Hall	ASGWC will host a Town Hall featuring prominent GWC administrators including the President, Vice Presidents, and Deans.

January

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
***Inauguration Day	The Student Interest Committee will host a live-stream of the Inauguration of the President of the United States.

February

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
Black History Month	Campus Life will continue to collaborate with the Black History Month Committee to provide education related to Black Americans continued struggle with voter suppression and access to voting.
Emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Voter Registration Day. ● The last day to register to vote online or to register to vote by mail or in person.

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March

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ASACC National Student Advocacy Conference	GWC students will travel to Washington, D.C. to attend the ASACC conference, to engage in community service, attend advocacy training workshops, and meet with Congressional leaders to advocate for national legislative priorities for higher education.

April

Voter Registration Table	Campus Life will host a voter information booth where students can register to vote online and receive personal assistance with the registration process. Campus Life will maintain our partnerships with the League of Women Voters and Orange County Supervisor of Elections.
DSC Student Advocacy Day	The District Student Council coordinates a district-wide event where students meet with legislative representatives in Sacramento to advocate for legislative priorities for California Community Colleges.
GWC Student Town Hall	ASGWC will host a Town Hall featuring prominent GWC administrators including the President, Vice Presidents, and Deans.

May

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Evaluation & Reporting:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Golden West College will use the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement to evaluate the increase of student voting by comparing our campus voter turnout and voter registration rates to past elections to measure progress on increasing both.

Golden West College will work with our internal Office of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (ORPIE) to develop qualitative and quantitative data that demonstrates the overall success of our events and efforts. We will also implement a survey instrument at event check-ins to continue measuring similar elements in collaboration with the ORPIE office.

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/golden-west-college/>.

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.